



THE ROCKEFELLER UNIVERSITY

1230 YORK AVENUE

NEW YORK, NY 10021

August 13, 1979

JOSHUA LEDERBERG

PRESIDENT

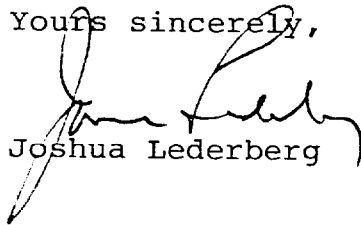
Bert W. O'Malley, M.D.  
Professor and Chairman  
Department of Cell Biology  
Baylor College of Medicine  
Houston, Texas 77030

Dear Dr. O'Malley:

Your letter of July 19th arrived while I was out of town for a few weeks and I apologize for the delay in my reply. I very much appreciate your thinking of me to be a guest speaker in your Cell Biology Series and I wish it were possible for me to respond more simply "yes". However, as I am still gathering speed in my present role, but have been out of the laboratory for well over a year, I am afraid this is just an inappropriate time for me to attempt a "formal seminar on my recent work". In the foreseeable future I hope to be able to have some observations on the more general aspects of scientific progress, and perhaps how these are exemplified at our own institution. Even then I am not sure how appropriate that would be for your particular audience but time might tell.

Nevertheless, I am quite interested in the second part of your proposal, to meet more informally with your colleagues, and it is just possible that a congenial opportunity may present itself around the third week in September when I may have another opportunity to be visiting Houston in any event. As soon as that crystallizes, I hope I might call you to see if there is some mutually compatible time and date within the interval: and above all to find out if you are still interested! Whatever your conclusions about the group of your colleagues I certainly do not wish to miss the opportunity to visit you personally and look forward to that pleasure. My telephone number is (212) 360-1234.

Yours sincerely,

  
Joshua Lederberg